



PATENT APPLICATION

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7-22-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Noriaki KASAHARA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2653

Application No.: 10/041,637

Examiner: D. L. Ometz

Filed: January 10, 2002

Docket No.: 111653

For: THIN-FILM MAGNETIC HEAD AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SAME,
AND METHOD OF FORMING A PATTERNED THIN FILM FOR A THIN-FILM
MAGNETIC HEAD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JUL 21 2003

Technology Center 2600

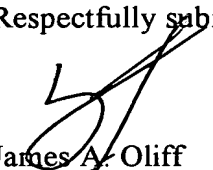
Sir:

In reply to the June 18, 2003 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group II, claims 13-24, drawn to "a thin-film magnetic head", with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-25 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 18, 2003

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